

Message Text

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44

ORIGIN AF-18

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R,10048Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BMEP, MZ

SUBJECT: CABORA BASSA HYDROELECTRIC SCHEME

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 673, STATE 196866

1. WHEN GE APPLICATION FOR EXIM BANK CREDIT FOR SALE OF
CONVERTER STATION FOR CABORA BASSA WAS CONSIDERED IN 1971,
DEPARTMENT OPPOSED USG PARTICIPATION THROUGH PROVISION OF
EXIM BANK FINANCING BUT RAISED NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO
PARTICIPATION US FIRMS WITH PRIVATE FINANCING.

2. BASIC US COMMERCIAL POLICY TOWARDS PORTUGUESE AFRICA
ENVISAGES USE OF TRADITIONAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE EXPORT
PROMOTION TECHNIQUES. ACCORDINGLY, USG DOES NOT REFUSE TO
SUPPLY INFORMATION REQUESTED BY US FIRMS ABOUT POSSIBLE
SALES OPPORTUNITIES IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA.

3. DEPARTMENT ALSO HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO ALERT INTERESTED
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US FIRMS TO VARIOUS RAMIFICATIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN CABORA BASSA PROJECT WHICH THEY WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO WEIGH BEFORE MAKING THEIR DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE. THUS DEPARTMENT WOULD POINT OUT RISKS AND DANGERS INVOLVED IN WORK AT DAM SITE BECAUSE OF INSURGENCY. FIRMS WOULD ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE EFFECT ON THEIR INTERESTS ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT EXIMBANK FINANCING CANNOT BE COUNTED ON. FURTHERMORE, THEY WILL RECALL CONGRESSIONAL FEELING IN 1971 AGAINST INVOLVEMENT OF USG FINANCING IN CABORA BASSA.

4. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WILL CONVEY GIST OF PARA 3 TO FIRMS EXPRESSING INTEREST AND TRY TO AVOID CREATING IN ANY WAY IMPRESSION THAT USG ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION IN CABORA BASSA. PER PARA 2 POST SHOULD SUPPLY INFORMATION REQUESTED STATE 196866. KISSINGER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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